



## **Congresswoman Caraveo's Keeping Families Fed Act**

*Extending the COVID-era SNAP expansion and requiring a strategy plan to prevent a hunger cliff for half a million Coloradans and families in need across the country*

COVID-era emergency nutrition assistance benefits were abruptly terminated at the end of February, **creating a "hunger cliff" for 540,300 Coloradans** who were relying on those benefits to put food on their tables.

Roughly 77 percent of SNAP enrollees in the state are working families, people with disabilities or elderly people with fixed incomes, according to the Colorado Department of Human Services, which administers the program alongside county governments. More than half of Colorado's SNAP households include children.

SNAP beneficiaries are now receiving at least a \$95 reduction in SNAP benefits a month, and some households are losing \$250 a month or more. Older adults have been hit the hardest, with their minimum SNAP benefit dropping from \$281 a month to \$23.

Specifically, **Congresswoman Caraveo's Keeping Families Fed Act of 2023:**

- Extends the emergency allotment flexibility to one year past bill passage; and
- Requires the USDA to submit a strategy plan to State SNAP agencies providing resources and guidance for public awareness and preparation for the end of the extension.

The ending of emergency allotments (EAs) after February 2023 was required by an Act enacted in December 2022, which provided only two months for SNAP recipients to prepare for a stark reduction in benefits. State agencies and SNAP recipients deserved more resources and guidance for such sharp benefit reductions, which have led to an increased reliance on emergency food distribution programs such as food banks.

The *Keeping Families Fed Act* has received support from Colorado leaders in this space including Hunger Free Colorado and Feeding Colorado.